Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FAO/WHO
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the arrangement agreed to by the Committee at its third meeting (TBT/M/3, paragraph 24), the secretariat circulated in documents TBT/3 and TBT/8 the information received from the secretariat of Codex Alimentarius on acceptances of Codex standards, covering the period 1 October 1979 to 10 July 1981.

2. Further information on acceptances has now been received, covering the period up to 29 June 1984. The corresponding documentation has been placed in the Library in the Centre William Rappard (Room 1080), where it can be consulted by delegations.


(ii) ALINORM 83/2, July 1983. Codex Alimentarius Commission, Fifteenth Session, 4-15 July 1983. "Progress report on acceptances of recommended Codex standards and recommended Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues and on action taken in member countries concerning their implementation."

(iii) CAC/ACCEPTANCES / PART I - Rev.2 "Summary of Acceptances - Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards" (as at 1 February 1983).

(iv) CAC/ACCEPTANCES / PART II - Rev.2 "Summary of Acceptances - Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues" (as at 19 September 1983).


3. Extracts from document (vi) above, covering acceptances of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues, notified by signatories of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, are reproduced below.
Codex Standards

1. The "Summary of Acceptances - Part I - World Wide and Regional Codex Standards" (CAC/Acceptances Part I - Rev.2) gives details of all acceptances of Codex Standards received up to 1 February 1983 including details of specified deviations.

2. The "Summary of Acceptances - Part II - Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues" (CAC/Acceptances Part II - Rev.2) gives details of all acceptances of Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues received up to 19 December 1983.

3. Since 1 February 1983, the following acceptances have been received:

Argentina

Argentina has notified Acceptance with Specified Deviations in respect of the following standards:

- Canned Tomatoes (Codex Stan. 13.1981)
- Canned Grapefruit (Codex Stan. 15.1981)
- Canned Green Beans and Wax Beans (Codex Stan. 16.1981)
- Canned Applesauce (Codex Stan. 17.1981)
- Canned Sweetcorn (Codex Stan. 18.1981)
- Canned Pineapple (Codex Stan. 42.1981)
- Canned Mushrooms (Codex Stan. 55.1981)
- Canned Asparagus (Codex Stan. 56.1981)
- Processed Tomato Concentrate (Codex Stan. 57.1981)
- Canned Green Peas (Codex Stan. 58.1981)
- Canned Plums (Codex Stan. 59.1981)
- Canned Pears (Codex Stan. 61.1981)
- Canned Strawberries (Codex Stan. 62.1981)

Full details of the deviations notified by Argentina will be published in the next updating of the Summary of Acceptances.

Argentina has also notified Full Acceptance of the following standards:

- Edible Fungi and Fungus Products (General Standard) (Codex Stan. 38.1981)
- Dried Edible Fungi (Codex Stan. 39.1981)
- Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" (Codex Stan. 40.1981)
Brazil

The Brazilian Government established in 1981 a Coordinating Committee for the Codex Alimentarius, integrating the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Trade, Health, Agriculture, Internal Affairs, and Finance, with the participation of the Brazilian Association of Food Industries (ABIA) in an observer capacity. The purpose of this Committee is to analyse the Codex Standards and to define guidelines for their acceptance. The Codex Alimentarius Programme has played an important role as a mechanism of support for the modernization of Brazilian legislation dealing with matters pertaining to food production, processing, trade and control of food products. As regards the acceptance of Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues, the Brazilian Government will express its views in due course, as the activities of the Coordinating Committee for the Codex Alimentarius begin to bear fruit.

Canada

Canada is continuing to review all the Codex Standards which have been submitted for acceptance.

Canada has notified Full Acceptance of the Standard for Canned Corned Beef (Codex Stan. 88.1981) and Acceptance with Specified Deviations in respect of the standards for Cooked Cured Ham (Codex Stan. 96.1981), Cooked Cured Pork Shoulder (Codex Stan. 97.1981) and Cooked Cured Chopped Meat (Codex Stan. 98.1981). In the case of the Standard for Luncheon Meat (Codex Stan. 89.1981), Canada has not given acceptance, nor has it given any undertaking concerning distribution of this product.

Canada has also notified Acceptance with Specified Deviations of the following Cheese Standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>Cheddar Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-2</td>
<td>Blue Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-3</td>
<td>Danbo Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-8</td>
<td>Cheshire Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-9</td>
<td>Emmentaler Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-10</td>
<td>Gruyere Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-11</td>
<td>Tilsiter Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-15</td>
<td>Provolone Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-17</td>
<td>Butterkase Cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-18</td>
<td>Coulommiers Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-24</td>
<td>Maribo Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-25</td>
<td>Fynbo Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-8(b)</td>
<td>Process(ed) Cheese and Spreadable Process(ed) Cheese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full details of the deviations specified will be set out in the next updating of the Summary of Acceptances.
Finland

Reference is made to our letter dated 9 June, 1981, on the above mentioned subject. The views presented in that statement are still valid.

The process of acceptance has been greatly facilitated by the recently introduced free distribution declaration as approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The member countries of the Codex Alimentarius Commission now have a choice of different ways to facilitate international trade with food.

Some years ago we started a thorough analysis of the existing Codex Standards to find the most appropriate ways to accept them. However, legislative and technical constraints still exist, and they must be resolved. Some delay has also been caused by the shortage of manpower in our staff, which has also been involved in the preparation of our own legislation. However, it is our intention to find a favourable solution to the present problems and be in a position to inform you, as soon as possible, more specifically of our plans regarding a number of Codex Standards.

Hungary

Hungary has given Full Acceptance to the following Codex standards:

- Pickled Cucumbers
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Apricots
- Dried Apricots
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Peaches
- Canned Grapefruit
- Canned Sweetcorn
- Canned mushrooms
- Canned Asparagus
- Processed Tomato Concentrate
- Canned Plums
- Canned Raspberries
- Canned Strawberries
- Jams (Fruit Preserves) and Jellies

Hungary has given Acceptance with Specified Deviations to the following Codex standards:

- Edible Soya Bean Oil
- Edible Arachis Oil
- Edible Cottonseed Oil
- Edible Sunflowerseed Oil
- Edible Rapeseed Oil
- Edible Maize Oil
- Edible Sesameseed Oil
- Edible Safflowerseed Oil
- Lard
- Edible Tallow
- Margarine
- Olive Oil
- Edible Mustardseed Oil
- Edible Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed Oil
- Edible Coconut Oil
- Edible Palm Oils
- Edible Palm Kernel Oil
- Edible Grapeseed Oil
- Edible Babassu Oil
- Minarin

Details of the deviations will be published in the next updating of the Summary of Acceptances.

As regards the Codex standards for:

- Canned Fruit Cocktail
- Citrus Marmelade
- Canned Tropical Fruit Salad

Canned Pineapple
Canned Manderin Oranges
Table Olives

Hungary is not in a position to accept these standards according to one of the methods provided for in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, but declares that products in conformity with these standards are permitted to be distributed freely in Hungary.
Japan

The following reply has been received from the authorities in Japan:

"We very much appreciate your sending us the various publications relating to the Codex Alimentarius, especially those relating to the Codex Standards. The Government of Japan is making the maximum possible effort to accept the Codex Standards and, in the related ministries and agencies and with non-governmental organizations, is now studying the specific problems relating to the use in Japan of each individual Codex Standard.

While we have to give close attention to the differences between Japan's existing standards and the Codex Standards in the area of food quality, the major difficulty, however, would be that Japan's standards are applied on a voluntary basis, with the Government having no power to require or enforce compulsory compliance with standards. It would, therefore not be possible for us to prohibit the marketing of food products not complying with the Codex Standards. It would only be possible for Japan to 'accept' Codex Standards in the sense of adopting them as standards to be complied with on a voluntary basis. Under Japan's present system, this would be the utmost that we could do in the way of acceptance of the Codex Standards.

The Government of Japan would, of course, take all possible action along the lines of administrative guidance to have producers and others comply with a Japanese Standard amended to make it identical to a Codex Standard accepted, and universal compliance with the Codex Standard accepted would in practice be obtained through such action. It is not possible for the Government of Japan to enforce the prohibition called for under 4 A-(i)-(b) of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, but it believes that the action described above should be acceptable as compliance with that provision."

Norway

Norway has notified Acceptance with Specified Deviations of the following standards:

- Butter and Whey Butter (A-1)
- Butter Oil and Anhydrous Butter Oil and Anhydrous Milk Fat (A-2)
- Tilsiter

Norway does not accept the standards for the under-mentioned food products, but products conforming to the standard may be distributed freely:

- Edible Acid Casein
- Edible Caseinates
- Cheese Standards as under
  - Danablu
  - Danbo
  - Gouda
Norway does not accept the standards for the under-mentioned food products, but products conforming to the standards may be distributed subject to specified conditions:

- Emmentaler
- Limburger
- Provolone
- Cottage Cheese
- Butterkäse
- Harzer Käse
- Romadur

Norway gives Full Acceptance to the following standards:

- Gudbrandsvals Ost
- Norvegia

Full details of specified deviations and conditions will be set out in the next updating of the Summary of Acceptances.

Rwanda

Rwanda has indicated that it gives Full Acceptance to the standards contained in Volumes II to VIII of the Codex Alimentarius. The products for which there are Codex standards will also have to meet the national standards, where such exist.

Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia has replied as follows concerning acceptance of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues:

The quality of food products in Yugoslavia is regulated by governmental regulations. In accordance with the Standardization Act, the quality of the whole groups of related products is prescribed. Basic norms are given, which must be respected, that is, conditions under which some groups of products may be put on domestic market. Besides these, by special regulations, their hygienic quality, type and number of microorganisms, pesticide residues and other matters are prescribed. Certainly in prescribing some parameters, in the first place, the requirements of the Codex standards are taken into account, if they exist, but also domestic industry possibilities are taken into account. Within the framework of food products, the basic aim is to prepare them for consumers in their natural form, as much as possible, and in this connexion the addition of additives is very much limited, and in some cases completely forbidden. This especially refers to colour, flavours and preservatives.

There is another difference between Codex standards, as a whole and Yugoslav regulations.
First of all, in our regulations, the quality requirements for whole groups of products are prescribed mainly, for example, frozen fruits or frozen vegetables and similar products which are in the above-mentioned group of standards, so that with one standard quality requirements for one group of fruits or vegetables are prescribed.

It means that it cannot be expected to prescribe detailed standards for one kind of fruits or vegetables out of the whole group of frozen fruits or vegetables. Only the most indispensable parts which refer to the quality are taken. And the second limitation regarding quality and type of additives relates only to necessary ones, which are concrete, regardless of the fact that some Codex standards provide for the possibility to choose from the whole series of additives. This is the reason that we have not been in a position to accept Codex standard fully, but rather in one of two other ways laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, that is, we have accepted with some determined limitations or, more frequently, we have accepted with specified deviations.

We wish to underline that as with the international standards, Yugoslavian regulations are subject of change. We work at amendments and addenda, and also at elaboration of new regulations.

Codex standards are basic for the elaboration of our regulations although it is not possible to accept all of the Codex Standards for the reasons given above.

When we receive the announced group of standards we shall reply in time.

Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues

Chile

Chile has indicated that it accepts the Codex maximum limits for a large number of pesticides on a wide range of food products. Certain clarifications are being sought in the Chilean reply.

Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia has replied as follows:

"Concerning the acceptance of Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues, in principle, we accept the limits and include them in the existing "Regulation about maximum limits for pesticide residues in food". However, there are certainly some cases when the Codex limits are not acceptable, but according to our national administrative and legal procedure it is necessary to work on the acceptance of Codex limits, and to follow, as far as possible, the consensus as to limits developed in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues."